Limited consensus on the diagnosis and treatment of lymphedema after head and neck cancer: results from an International Delphi study



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Purpose: To explore current practice variation and degree of consensus among international clinical experts regarding the diagnosis, classification, measurement, and treatment of head and neck lymphedema (HNL) after head and neck cancer treatment.

Methods:

- Delphi design
- Clinical researchers & healthcare professionals with HNL expertise
- Three rounds
 - Round 1 collect information
 - Rounds 2 & 3 explore practice variation and consensus

- systems
- Share expertise!



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Visualization of our results by ridgeline plots



Results:

lacksquare

Take home message! • More research on: Measurement instruments • Treatment options Implement validated instruments and classification



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• Round 1: n= 20 • Rounds 2 & 3: n= 17 • 7 researchers & healthcare professionals and 2 other • Variation in age and years of experience

Conclusion & discussion:

 Strong practice variation Limited representation in various countries Differences in healthcare systems and insurance



